

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 09359 161907Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 SSM-03 /074 W  
-----012402 161912Z /50

O 161426Z NOV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9349  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
NSC WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
USMISSION USUN NY  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E. O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: MOPS IS EG  
SUBJ: SADAT'S VISIT NOW TAKEN FOR GRANTED

1. ISRAELIS CONTINUE TO MARVEL AT WHAT THEY NOW ACCEPT  
AS THE NEAR CERTAINTY OF SADAT'S COMING. THE PACE OF  
EVENTS HAVE LEFT MANY FIGURATIVELY BREATHLESS AND SOME-  
WHAT OFF BALANCE AND THE PRESS TODAY SEEMS TO BE URGING  
EVERYONE CONCERNED TO LOOK AHEAD.

2. THERE IS GENERAL APPRECIATION OF THE GAMBLE INVOLVED--  
FOR BOTH SIDES. THE JERUSALEM POST WRITES "THE ARAB  
ANTI-ZIONIST CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN DEALT A SEVERE BLOW AND  
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 09359 161907Z

NOT EVEN ALL OF SADAT'S AIDES WILL AGREE THAT THEIR  
CHIEF'S SKYROCKETING POPULARITY IN THE US IS  
ADEQUATE COMPENSATION." THE POST FEARS THAT THE  
JERUSALEM ENCOUNTER MAY REVEAL A CHASM SO WIDE AS  
TO ACTUALLY HARM PEACE PROSPECTS. UNLIKE GENEVA,  
WHICH COULD SURVIVE INITIAL SETBACKS, THE VISIT IS  
A ONE-SHOT AFFAIR AND IF IT FAILS THE DRAMA "MAY END

UP NOT WITH A WHIMPER BUT WITH A BANG."

3. HAARETZ, WHICH EARLIER THAN THE OTHERS BEGAN TAKING THE SADAT VISIT SERIOUSLY, NOTES THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN DISCLAIMED ANY INTENTION OF DRIVING A WEDGE BETWEEN EGYPT AND THE OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES AND THAT HE TOOK CARE TO REPEAT ISRAEL'S WILLINGNESS TO HAVE "AUTHORIZED" PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATE IN PEACE TALKS. THE REACTION OF THE OTHER ARAB STATES IS CLEARLY ON PEOPLE'S MINDS HERE, WITH THE IMMEDIATE FOCUS BEING SADAT'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS. THE PRESS HAS NOTED THE SPARSE COMMENT ON SADAT'S VENTURE FROM ARAB CAPITALS OTHER THAN CAIRO. OBSERVERS HAVE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SADAT HAS LEFT TO CONSULT WITH ASAD AFTER (UNDERSCORED) VIRTUALLY CLOSING AVENUES FOR RETREAT FROM A VISIT TO JERUSALEM (THIS MORNING'S PRESS REPORTED THAT BEGIN'S INVITATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND THAT HE ALREADY HAS SADAT'S REPLY. THE AFGERNOON PAPERS CORRECTED THE STORY BY REPORTING THAT SADAT DID NOT RECEIVE THE INVITATION PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR DAMASCUS.) THE BOLDNESS OF SADAT'S MOVE CONTINUES TO DRAW ADMIRATION.

4. BEGIN INTENDS THAT HIS PART IN INITIATING THE DRAMA SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED. COLUMNIST NAKDIMON (YEDIOT-AHARANOT), KNOWN FOR HIS CLOSE TIES TO BEGIN, WRITES THAT THE PRIME MINISTER FOR SEVERAL MONTHS HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 09359 161907Z

PUT OUT FEELERS TO SADAT, CITING THE GOOD OFFICES OF US AND ROMANIAN GOVERNMENTS. IN FACT, THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN ASKED BY MANY IF THE US HAD PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF SADAT'S BOMBSHELL. INCIDENTALLY, SOME SEE THE US REACTION TO THE SADAT VISIT AS COOL. IT IS ASCRIBED TO ALLEGED USG FEARS THAT THE VISIT COULD UNDERCUT GENEVA.

5. IN THE KNESSET YESTERDAY, AMONG THE SMILES AND GENERAL GOOD FEELING, LIKUD MKS WERE CREDITING THE US-ISRAEL WORKING PAPER FOR THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. SEVERAL CLAIMED THAT SADAT'S DRAMATIC DECISION WAS A BOLD MOVE TO EXTRICATE HIMSELF FROM THE PROCEDURAL CORNER IN WHICH THE ARABS HAD BEEN PLACED BY THE WORKING PAPER. THEY GAVE THE CREDIT TO BEGIN AND DAYAN, IN THAT ORDER. AS THE MEANING OF SADAT'S MOVE CONTINUES TO UNFOLD, ONE JOURNALIST STRESSED THAT SADAT HAS NOT ONLY GIVEN DE FACTO RECOGNITION TO ISRAEL, BUT TO BEGIN AND TO JERUSALEM AS ISRAEL'S CAPITAL, AS WELL. LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC ATTITUDES, POLITICAL LEADERS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SADAT'S VISIT NOW TAKEN FOR GRANTED  
**TAGS:** MOPS, OVIP, IS, EG, (SADAT, ANWAR)  
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**Type:** TE  
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